Displaced Workers: Differences in Nonmetro and Metro Experience in the Mid-1990s. Karen S. Hamrick. Food and Rural Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Rural Development Research Report Number 92.

Abstract

During 1995-97, 3.4 million workers were displaced from their jobs, of whom 500,000 (15 percent) were nonmetro workers. This report examines the displaced workers' experience in metro and nonmetro areas using survey and administrative data. Although nonmetro workers were less likely to be displaced than metro workers, they had a lower probability of finding employment after losing their jobs. Nonmetro workers were less likely to be covered by legislation providing advance notice of job loss and providing retirement and health insurance benefits after being laid off. A variety of programs are available to assist displaced workers in nonmetro areas.

Keywords: Rural unemployment, displacement, dislocation, unemployment, dislocated worker programs, Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Bo Beaulieu, Doug Bowers, Amy Carr, Robert Gibbs, Bob Goldfarb, Charlie Hallahan, Andrew Haughwout, Brendan Kelly, Lorin Kusmin, Jack Runyan, Steven Hipple, Leslie Whitener, Tim Wojan, Peg Young, and Steven Zahniser for their generous and helpful comments on drafts of this research. And also thanks to Calvin Beale, Don Beale, Zen Choma, Gary Gortenburg, Michael Hope, Curtis Kooser, William Lindamood, Haiping Luo, Bob McIntire, Barbara Schrader and Kevin Thompson for their generous and helpful program, technical, and data assistance. I am grateful to Lindsay Mann for excellent editing and Wynnice Pointer-Napper for design and final production.

1800 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20036-5831

October 2001